



# DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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Date: September 12, 2011  
To: Delta Stewardship Council Members  
From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer  
Subject: Meeting, September 22-23, 2011

**Chair**  
Phil Isenberg

**Members**  
Randy Fiorini  
Gloria Gray  
Patrick Johnston  
Felicia Marcus  
Hank Nordhoff  
Don Nottoli

**Executive Officer**  
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda for our nineteenth meeting and supporting material is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting.

Thursday's agenda will include a review of the Delta Vision Foundation Report Card and discussions on the West Side Intake Concept from the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, as well as the Draft Economic Sustainability Plan from the Delta Protection Commission. There will also be reports from the Lead Scientist, Delta Independent Science Board on the Fifth Staff Draft of the Delta Plan, and an update the release of the Environmental Impact Report.

Friday's agenda is full as well. Included is a report from the Department of Water Resources on the agency's Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program. There will also be a discussion on the process for adopting flow objectives and criteria from the State Water Resources Control Board. The Delta Plan development discussion will also include a review of the draft being submitted to the Office of Administrative Law, as well as a briefing on the upcoming work sessions.

## **Delta Protection Commission – Economic Sustainability Plan** (Agenda Item 8)

The second public draft of the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) was released on August 9, 2011 and is posted on the DSC website at <http://bit.ly/oz3Qwz>. The 2009 Delta Reform Act, Section 85301 (a) states that "the commission shall develop, for consideration and incorporation into the Delta Plan by the council, a proposal to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical, recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place, in a manner consistent with the coequal goals. For the purpose of carrying out this subdivision, the commission may include in the proposal the relevant strategies described in the Strategic Plan." Section 85301 (d) further states that "the commission shall submit the proposal developed pursuant to subdivision (a) to the council. The council shall consider the proposal and may include any portion of the proposal in the Delta Plan if the council, in its discretion, determines that the portion of the proposal is feasible and consistent with the objectives of the Delta Plan and the purposes of this division." On its website, the Delta Protection Commission states that the ESP "identifies and measures key components of the Delta economy that are directly connected and dependent on the natural resources of the Delta." It further states that the ESP "evaluates trends and future conditions, and develops

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

strategies to enhance and sustain the Delta economy over time.” Finally, it states that the ESP “evaluates the impact of various proposals for the Delta on regional economic sustainability.” Upon adoption by the DPC, the agency will recommend actions and strategies that support economic sustainability and are consistent with the coequal goals.

#### **Department of Water Resources – Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Program** (Agenda Item 15)

The Department of Water Resources is in the process of developing its Delta Flood Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan, which is called for within its program under the FloodSAFE Initiative. The program is one of five key elements under the FloodSAFE Strategic Action to “Improve Emergency Response”. The program will improve DWR’s capabilities to prepare, respond, and recover from levee failure and flooding in the Delta. The plan will address the protection of life and public health and safety, critical infrastructure, and the environment. These issues are critical to the furthering the coequal goals of the Delta Plan in addressing Delta flood risk emergency preparedness and response. While no written report has been submitted at this time, we have asked DWR to provide information for the Council as soon as possible.

#### **State Water Resources Control Board – Process for Adopting Flow Objectives/Criteria** (Agenda Item 11)

The Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan contains in Chapters 4 and 5, a regulatory policy ER P1 addressing the need for the SWRCB to update flow requirements in the Delta and the greater Delta watershed in order to achieve the coequal goals. It recommends to the SWRCB an aggressive timeframe to accomplish these updates (by June 2014 to adopt and implement regulatory flow “objectives” for the Delta; and by June 2018 to develop non-regulatory flow “criteria” for high-priority tributaries in the Delta watershed). It also provides that, prior to these updates the Council will use the SWRCB’s existing regulatory flow objectives to determine consistency of covered actions that implicate flow. If by the end of June 2013, however, the SWRCB indicates that the updates cannot be achieved by the suggested timeframes, the Council will consider different approaches and may amend the Delta Plan to address flows with regard to covered actions and consistency with the Delta Plan.

Pursuant to the Council’s request at its August 2011 meeting, and mindful of ER P1 from the Fifth Staff Draft, a representative of the SWRCB will give a brief presentation on the Board’s processes to establish both regulatory flow objectives and non-regulatory flow criteria, and discuss the Board’s ongoing and anticipated flow-setting activities relevant to the Delta and the greater Delta watershed.

The September meeting is once again being held within the legal boundaries of the Delta. It will be in the first floor Galleria of the West Sacramento City Hall. The address is 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or [jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

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